



TESTIMONY FOR SB0583

Public Safety - Law Enforcement Agencies - Acquisition and Use of Surveillance Technology

Bill Sponsor: Senator Sydnor

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0843 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Our members appreciate Senator Sydnor's efforts to solve a very concerning problem with the intrusion of surveillance equipment in the lives of Marylanders. We are probably not even aware of the number of times that our images and our personal information have been obtained and provided to groups, agencies, or individuals that we were in no way aware of or informed about. We are very much supportive of having a Privacy Technology Board established and we approve of the Board's responsibilities to monitor the amount of surveillance equipment that is purchased by various agencies and how and to whom the information gathered is disseminated.

Our only concern is the makeup of the Board. We believe that any privacy advocacy members and other members appointed by the Governor will be completely outvoted by the members of the police establishment. There should be more civilians on the Board who do not have a relationship to the police establishment, so that their voting will be equal to that of the members of the police establishment.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.